

**MARVEL**

LORE  
CARRATÙ  
CURIEL

# DRACULA

**BLOOD  
HUNT**

**3**

OF THREE



RATED T+



IN MEMORIAM

## DON PERLIN

1929 - 2024



Marvel pauses to remember longtime penciler, inker and former managing art director Don Perlin, who co-created Moon Knight and was a mainstay on series such as *Defenders*, *Ghost Rider* and *Werewolf by Night*. Born Aug. 27, 1929, in New York City, Perlin studied under Burne Hogarth and attended the Cartoonists and Illustrators School. He began professional work in the late 1940s and would work with Will Eisner on *The Spirit* comics before being drafted in 1953. Perlin wouldn't come back to comics full-time until the 1970s, when Marvel Editor in Chief Roy Thomas recruited him to draw *Werewolf by Night*. In that series, he co-created the vigilante hero Moon Knight with writer Doug Moench. He also co-created Tigra with Tony Isabella and was the longest-running penciler on the *Defenders* series. In the 1980s, he became Marvel's managing art director, working under John Romita Sr. and, among other things, helping oversee the up-and-coming artists in the Romita's Raiders program. He moved on in the 1990s to Acclaim and Valiant comics, where he co-created some of their most important characters. Perlin was well-liked in the comics field and respected for decades of great work. Our hearts go out to his family and all those who knew and loved him.





**DRACULA** is the legendary immortal lord of the vampires, who rules his undead nation from his stronghold in **CHERNOBYL**.

**BRIELLE BROOKS** is the daughter of **BLADE**, the half-human, half-vampire monster hunter. Brielle, A.K.A. **BLOODLINE**, inherited her father's superhuman strength, reflexes and senses and has been trained by him to defend herself and others against creatures of the night.

**MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS**

# **BLOOD HUNT**

# **DRACULA**

A group of vampires led by **BLADE** used **DARKFORCE** energy to blot out the sun, unleashing violence and chaos upon the world. **DRACULA** sought out **BRIELLE BROOKS**, warning her that the world would come to an end unless they worked together to kill her father. Brielle was reluctant to ally herself with her father's ancient enemy but was whisked away by Dracula to **NEW YORK CITY**. After a heart-to-heart with the super hero **DAREDEVIL**, Brielle reluctantly agreed to follow Dracula—but they were interrupted by an attack from a monstrosity transformed Blade, now revealed to have been possessed by **VARNAE**, the first vampire!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** THE EVENTS OF THIS ISSUE TAKE PLACE BEFORE *BLOOD HUNT #5*.

**3**

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SO, THIS  
IS THE CHILD  
THE MORTALS  
REST THEIR  
HOPES UPON.

VARNAEI



YOU MAY HAVE ENTRANCED THE  
GIRL, BUT YOUR INCORPOREAL  
FORM CAN DO LITTLE TO  
HARM HER.



YOU MISTAKE MY  
MOTIVES, DRACULA.  
I SEEK TO SHOW HER  
THE FOLLY OF YOUR  
SCHEMES--

--SO THAT  
WE MAY RULE  
THE ETERNAL  
NIGHT--



--AS BEFITS A  
FATHER AND HIS  
DAUGHTER.

IT IS NOT  
HER FATE TO  
ACT AS YOUR  
HERALD!

GRRAGH!



WE SHALL  
NOT KNEEL AT  
YOUR FEET.



→GASP←

WHATEVER THIS IS,  
IT'S THE **OPPOSITE**  
OF WAKING UP.

A **WORLD** WARPS  
AROUND ME.

IT'S REALITY THROUGH A  
RIPPLING POOL, AND  
THE ONLY THING THAT'S  
STEADY ARE MY LIMBS.

THE AIR SMELLS  
LIKE ATLANTA.  
MY ATLANTA.

AS THE RIPPLING  
SPREADS, I CAN MAKE  
OUT MY **SCHOOL**.

I DON'T WALK TOWARD  
IT SO MUCH AS I  
ENVISION MYSELF INSIDE  
AND REALITY **OBLIGES**.

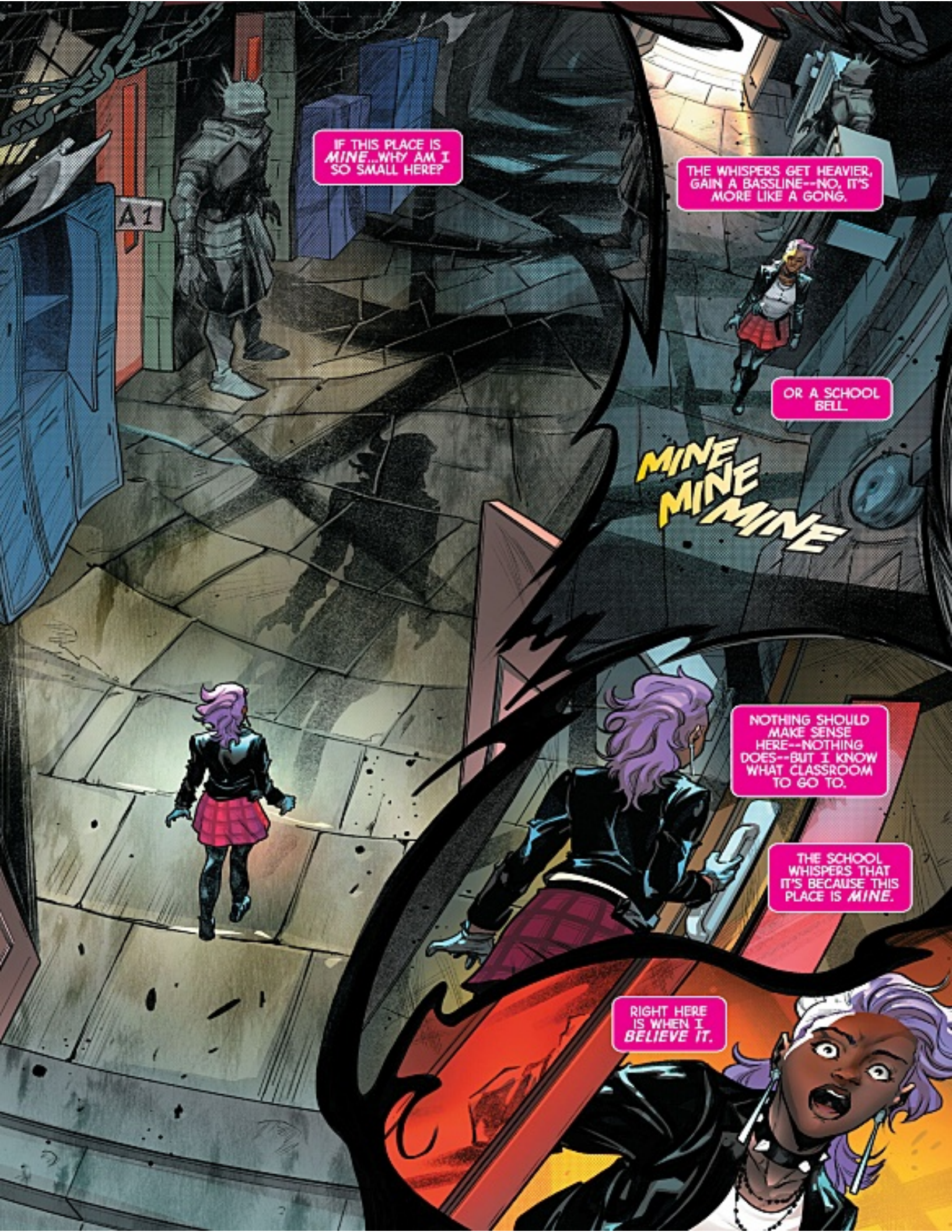
THE TOWERS AND  
BATTLEMENTS OF  
THE SCHOOL SPEAK  
TO ME, TELLING ME  
THIS IS **MINE**.

**MINE.**

**MINE.**

THE SCHOOL BACK  
HOME DOESN'T  
HAVE TOWERS.  
BATTLEMENTS.





IF THIS PLACE IS  
*MINE*...WHY AM I  
SO SMALL HERE?

THE WHISPERS GET HEAVIER,  
GAIN A BASSLINE--NO, IT'S  
MORE LIKE A GONG.

OR A SCHOOL  
BELL.


**MINE  
MINE  
MINE**

NOTHING SHOULD  
MAKE SENSE  
HERE--NOTHING  
DOES--BUT I KNOW  
WHAT CLASSROOM  
TO GO TO.

THE SCHOOL  
WHISPERS THAT  
IT'S BECAUSE THIS  
PLACE IS *MINE*.

RIGHT HERE  
IS WHEN I  
BELIEVE IT.





A WAVE OF RELIEF  
WASHES OVER ME  
IN THIS CATHEDRAL  
OF A SCHOOL.

MY DAD IS HERE. HE'D  
MAKE THIS ALL RIGHT.  
WE'D FIX IT TOGETHER.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN  
YOUR FATHER IS *BLADE*, THE  
DAYWALKER, RIGHT?

MY DAD MIGHT  
NOT HAVE BEEN THE  
WARMEST OF MEN--

--BUT HIS HUGS  
WERE SOLID. REAL.

COME NOW,  
DAUGHTER.

YOU'RE  
NOT--

MY SWORD!

IN OUR CASTLE,  
YOU HAVE NO NEED  
FOR A BLADE...

...YOU NEED ONLY  
THE VIOLENCE  
THAT I HAVE PASSED  
ON TO YOU...



...IN YOUR  
BLOOD.

MY MIND  
GOES RED.

THE BLOODLUST TAKES  
AN ALREADY SPINNING  
WORLD AND TWISTS IT  
UNTIL IT BREAKS.

HUNGER RISES FROM MY  
CHEST AND THROAT UNTIL  
I CAN FEEL IT IN THE  
BACK OF MY EYELIDS.

THERE'S NOTHING  
LEFT BUT MY  
THIRST.

A STRANGE SENSE CUTS  
THROUGH THE HUNGER,  
STRENGTHENS IT.

HIS  
APPROVAL.

THIS IS  
YOUR INHERITANCE,  
GIRL.

YOU ARE  
MEANT TO BE A  
PREDATOR...

...AND THE  
WORLD YOUR  
PREY.

SHADOWS TAKE  
FAMILIAR FORMS,  
WEAR THE FACES  
OF MY FRIENDS, REBECCA  
AND JAYDEN—

—BUT MY HUNGER  
DOES NOT SEE THEM.




THESE MINIONS  
WOULD HAVE BEEN  
**CHILD'S PLAY**  
FOR MY GENERALS.

TO ME, THEY ARE A  
**SPLATTERING OF**  
UNDEAD FLESH ON  
CEMENT.

THE GIRL STILL HAS HER  
PART TO PLAY IN WHAT'S  
TO COME...AND I WILL  
NOT BE HALTED BY  
CANNON FODDER.







THIS IS ALL  
YOU HAVE FOR  
ME, VARNAE?!

FOR THE  
AVENGERS, YOU  
FLING THEIR FRIENDS'  
FUTURE CORPSES AT THEM...  
A PATHETIC, OBVIOUS  
ATTACK.



IF YOUR  
GOAL WAS TO  
INSULT THE LORD  
OF VAMPIRES,  
YOU HAVE  
ACHIEVED IT.



WHAT'S  
THIS NOW?

AH...  
I SEE.

NOT  
FODDER, BUT  
RESOURCES.




**RRAGH!**

PERHAPS  
THE RESULTS  
OF YOUR BLOOD  
MAGIC WILL BE A  
MORE WORTHY  
ADVERSARY.







HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SO ANGRY—SO RAVENOUS—THAT YOU FEEL YOUR BODY AND MOUTH REACTING BEFORE YOUR BRAIN PUMPS THE BRAKES?

I HEARD YOU TELL YOUR MOTHER THAT YOU ARE NO HERO...THAT MUCH IS TRUE, BRIELLE. THERE ARE NO **HEROICS** IN YOUR BLOODLINE.

WE ARE **RULERS** OF THE NIGHT, AND WE RULE THROUGH THE HUNT.

LIKE ALL OF THOSE UNDER MY SWAY, YOU ARE DRAWN TO BLOOD.


CONTROLLED BY IT WHEN YOU RESIST.

MORE SO, CONSIDERING YOUR BIRTHRIGHT.

THESE ATTEMPTS TO DENY WHERE YOUR **TRUE POWER** RESIDES WILL CONTINUE TO FAIL.

TO TORTURE YOU.





OUR KIND  
WILL ALWAYS WIN.  
WE WILL OUTLAST  
AND OUTHUNT.

IF YOU CEASE  
YOUR STRUGGLE,  
YOU MIGHT YET SAVE  
THEM FROM  
YOUR DESIRES.

MAKE  
THEM SOMETHING  
GREATER.

THERE IS ONLY  
ONE WAY THOSE YOU  
CARE ABOUT MAY  
SURVIVE. THRIVE.

IF  
THEY JOIN  
ME.

AND THAT  
CAN ONLY HAPPEN  
ONCE YOU STAND  
BESIDE ME...

...IN OUR  
KINGDOM.

**BRNGG**


THE WARPING REALITY  
PUSHES ME TOWARD  
HIM. THE SOUND OF  
IT, HOWEVER...





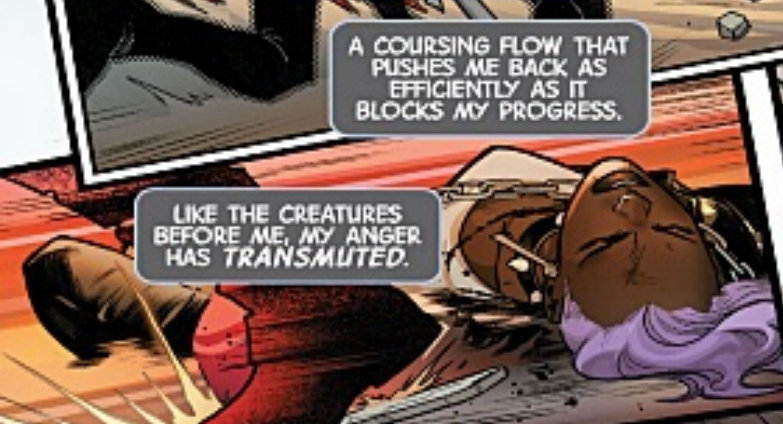
THE AIR REEKS OF  
RANCID, CLOTTING  
BLOOD.

VARNAE'S BEASTS MOVE  
WITH AN ARCAINE  
SINGLE-MINDEDNESS.




THE MAGIC THAT HOLDS  
THEM TOGETHER MAKES  
FIGHTING THEM LIKE  
SLICING THROUGH A  
RIVER OF BLOOD.


A COURGING FLOW THAT  
PUSHES ME BACK AS  
EFFICIENTLY AS IT  
BLOCKS MY PROGRESS.



LIKE THE CREATURES  
BEFORE ME, MY ANGER  
HAS TRANSMUTED.




I AM NO LONGER  
INSULTED BY THE LACK  
OF ADVERSARIES...



...BUT ENGULFED  
WITH RAGE--

--AT THE CONTINUED  
ASSAULT TO MY  
DOMAIN.






VARNAE'S POWER  
WAXES--

--BUT THAT DOES  
NOT MEAN MINE  
HAS WANED.

I HAVE MAINTAINED  
MY TITLE AGAINST  
HORDES OF  
CHALLENGERS--






--AGAINST THOSE  
WHO SOUGHT IT  
FOR THEMSELVES--


--AND THOSE  
WHO SOUGHT  
TO END IT.



IF VARNAE'S  
BLOODBESTS MOVE  
LIKE RUSHING WATER--




--I SHALL BE THE  
MOUNTAIN THEY CAN  
DO NAUGHT BUT  
CRASH AGAINST.



VARNAE IS A FOOL TO  
THINK THAT I SHALL BE  
BESTED BY SPOILED  
SUSTENANCE.





MY SWORDS SLICE  
THROUGH HIS  
MAGIC AS THEY  
WOULD ANY FLESH.

RAAARGHH!

GURK!

I KNOW THE FOOL  
PRETENDER TO MY  
THRONE IS  
WATCHING.

HIS ATTENTIONS  
ARE STRETCHED  
AND SPLIT  
ACROSS THE CITY.

BUT I DO NOT  
HAVE SUCH A  
DIVIDE.

AS LONG AS I  
PROTECT THE GIRL,  
I SHALL HAVE  
WHAT I WANT.

THE ONLY TRUE  
HURDLE TO MY WILL  
BEING DONE--

BZZT BZZT

--IS WHETHER OR  
NOT THE GIRL TRULY  
IS AS STUBBORN AS  
HER FATHER.

BZZT BZZT



YOU KNOW  
HOW THIS ENDS.  
BRIELLE: SIDE WITH  
DRACULA, OUR ENEMY,  
AND ALL YOU KNOW  
AND LOVE DIES.

OR STOP  
PLAYING HERO  
AND SAVE YOUR FRIENDS  
BY ACCEPTING YOUR  
PART OF OUR  
KINGDOM.

BZZT BZZT

YOU'RE RIGHT.  
I'M NOT A HERO.  
THAT'S NOT NEW  
INFORMATION.

IF I WAS, I'D  
HAVE STOPPED YOU  
ALREADY, JUST BECAUSE  
IT'S THE RIGHT  
THING TO DO.

BUT I'M  
THINKING...MAYBE  
DAREDEVIL WAS  
RIGHT.

IF REBECCA AND  
JAYDEN BECAME THIS...  
THEY'D HATE IT TOO  
MUCH FOR ME TO LET  
IT HAPPEN. TO PLAY  
A PART IN IT.

I CAN'T STAND  
BY AND WATCH MY  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
BECOME EVIL, JUST  
BECAUSE I AM  
TOO SCARED  
TO FIGHT.

SO,  
DAD?

I LOVE  
YOU TOO  
MUCH TO STAND  
BESIDE YOU!



YOU THINK  
YOUR BOLD,  
"CARING" SPEECHES  
MEAN ANYTHING, YOU  
STUPID, MORTAL  
CHILD?

MY POWER IS  
THE POWER OF  
THE ETERNAL!

YOU COULD  
HAVE BEEN GREATER  
THAN YOUR PATHETIC  
HEROES, AND INSTEAD  
YOU CHOOSE TO  
CLING TO A DYING  
LIGHT!

FOR A SECOND, I  
FALL FOR THIS TRICK  
TOO. I THINK I'M  
IN OVER MY HEAD.

WHAT ELSE AM I SUPPOSED  
TO FEEL WHEN MY OWN  
FRIENDS KEEP COMING  
AFTER ME?

BUT THEN I HEAR A  
FAMILIAR SOUND, AND I  
KNOW WHAT IT MEANS.

BZZT  
BZZT

BZZT  
BZZT

SCHOOL'S MOST  
DEFINITELY OVER.





THE BUZZING BELL STOPS SHORT. THE WORLD STARTS TO COLLAPSE AROUND ME AS I START TO RUN.

BUT I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY. I'M RUNNING TOWARD.

"BRIELLE! IT'S MOM.

"I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, BUT PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS, HONEY.

"I DON'T NEED YOU TO BE AN AVENGER OR YOUR FATHER...I NEED YOU TO *WAKE UP*.


"IF YOU NEED TO STAY IN NEW YORK AND FIGHT OR YOU WANT TO RUN ALL THE WAY BACK HOME TO ME, I DON'T CARE. I JUST NEED YOU TO *WAKE UP* AND CHOOSE.

"I TRUST WHATEVER DECISION YOU MAKE.

"I LOVE YOU.

"I AM PROUD OF YOU.





"JUST LET ME HEAR  
YOUR VOICE."

MY REFUSAL TO JOIN VARNÆ  
SHATTERED THE WORLD HE  
BUILT, BUT IT WAS MY  
MOTHER'S VOICE THAT  
SHOWED ME THE PATH THAT  
BROUGHT ME OUT OF IT.

IT CUT THROUGH DRACULA'S  
DEMANDS AND THE LIES  
VARNÆ TOLD THROUGH MY  
FATHER'S MOUTH.

I'D SPENT SO MUCH TIME  
TALKING ABOUT WHAT I  
CAN'T DO--CAN'T DEFEAT MY  
FATHER, CAN'T STAND BESIDE  
HIM--THAT I'D FORGOTTEN  
WHAT I *COULD* DO.

BUT IN MY *MOTHER'S*  
VOICE, I HEARD SOMEONE  
WHO KNEW ME, TRUSTED ME  
TO KNOW THE WAY...AND I  
WANTED TO FIGHT TO HEAR  
THAT BELIEF IN ME AGAIN.





MOM?



MOM!  
IT'S ME, I'M  
HERE! DON'T  
HANG UP!

BABY GIRL,  
THERE'S NOTHING  
ON THIS EARTH  
THAT COULD MAKE  
ME HANG UP  
THIS PHONE.



I'M SO SORRY,  
I NEVER SHOULD  
HAVE LEFT WITHOUT  
TELLING YOU, BUT  
EVERYTHING WAS  
GOING SO WRONG,  
AND D-DAD, HE'S--

OH TRUST,  
WHEN THIS IS  
OVER, WE'LL TALK  
ABOUT IT.

BUT YOU  
WOULDN'T HAVE  
BEEN THE BRIELLE  
I RAISED HAD  
YOU WAITED.



I WON'T SAY  
I'M NOT SCARED  
FOR YOU, BRIELLE, BUT I'M  
YOUR MOTHER--I'M  
ALWAYS SCARED  
FOR YOU.

JUST PROMISE  
ME, WHATEVER  
DECISION YOU MAKE  
TODAY, YOU DO IT  
BECAUSE IT FEELS  
RIGHT TO YOU.

DO THAT, AND  
I'LL DEAL WITH  
BEING SCARED.



I L-LOVE YOU, MOM,  
OKAY? I'M GONNA MAKE  
SURE WE BOTH LIVE  
LONG ENOUGH THAT  
I MAKE YOU SICK  
OF HEARING IT  
ALL THE TIME.



MAKING ME  
SICK OF YOU IS  
THE ONLY THING  
I KNOW YOU  
CAN'T DO. I  
LOVE YOU.

I PRESUME  
YOU'VE MADE YOUR  
DECISION.



YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO BOSS ME AROUND?

THERE'S NO NEED.

THAT'S NOT MY FATHER ANYMORE— BUT THAT *WAS* MY MOTHER ON THE PHONE, MAKES IT A LITTLE EASIER.

THEN RISE.

I'D SAY THANK YOU IF I THOUGHT YOU'D CARE.

YOUR FAMILY IS HARDLY KNOWN FOR ITS MANNERS.

MY FAMILY...

...MY RESPONSIBILITY.

SO LET'S GO SAVE MY DAD—FROM HIMSELF.

NEXT: IT ALL ENDS...  
IN BLOOD HUNT #5!



# BLOOD HUNT

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## JULY CHECKLIST

- BLACK PANTHER: BLOOD HUNT #3
- BLOOD HUNTERS #3
- DOCTOR STRANGE #17
- DRACULA: BLOOD HUNT #3
- MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN #22
- X-MEN: BLOOD HUNT – PSYLOCKE #1
- WEREWOLF BY NIGHT: BLOOD HUNT #1
- AVENGERS #16
- HULK: BLOOD HUNT #1
- UNION JACK THE RIPPER: BLOOD HUNT #3
- WOLVERINE: BLOOD HUNT #3
- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: BLOOD HUNT #3
- BLOOD HUNTERS #4
- X-MEN: BLOOD HUNT –  
LAURA KINNEY THE WOLVERINE #1
- **BLOOD HUNT #5**
- **BLOOD HUNT: RED BAND #5**
- FANTASTIC FOUR #22
- MIDNIGHT SONS: BLOOD HUNT #3
- STRANGE ACADEMY: BLOOD HUNT #3
- VENGEANCE OF THE MOON KNIGHT #7
- WOLVERINE: BLOOD HUNT #4



NEXT:

# BLOOD HUNT

5

**DOCTOR STRANGE** is presented with a dread bargain for a chance to save the world. The **AVENGERS** ride into a battle they cannot win. The dead battle the undead across the globe. Will it be enough? Will the world be saved, and how will it be changed if it is?



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